

the Spotted Bower-Bird (*Chlamydera maculata*) alongside its bower.

The final photographs, though not dealing with birds, were of very great zoological interest, and were pictures of that most remarkable egg-laying Australian mammal, the Duck-billed Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*). In this series were included slides of the nest and eggs, young in nest, and a photograph of Mr. Harry Burrell, who has done so much to elucidate the life-history of this animal, with two adults.

At the conclusion of Mr. Coles's remarks, Dr. LOWE thanked him for the very interesting exhibition he had shown, and also asked him to convey the thanks of the Club to the members of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales for sending these slides.

Mr. DAVID BANNERMAN forwarded the following remarks on the races of the Harlequin-Quail and named a new form. He writes :—

In working through the specimens of the Harlequin-Quail (*Coturnix delegorguei*) it became obvious that three races must be recognised instead of the single species named by Delegorgue after himself. In addition to the typical species, described from the Upper Limpopo river which ranges over a great part of the African Continent from the Sudan to the Cape, there are two obvious subspecies. One is restricted apparently to the island of São Thomé in the Gulf of Guinea, distinguished easily by its darker colouring in both males and females from mainland birds. For this race we already have a name, *Coturnix histrionica* Hartlaub [Rev. Mag. Zool. 1849, p. 495 : where the São Thomé island bird is fully described and named, not because Hartlaub considered it distinct from Delegorgue's Quail, but because he did not believe the original description of *C. delegorguei* to be sufficiently accurate]. The type of *C. d. histrionica* is in Hamburg. The male is figured : Verz. Hamburg, 1850, pl. xi. The third race is that which occurs in Southern Arabia, and of which we have four specimens in the British

Museum collection from Lahej and the Aden Peninsula. It is distinguished by its much paler brown coloration (almost resembling the colouring of *C. coturnix coturnix* in tone) as we might expect of a bird inhabiting that arid land. There does not appear to be a name available for the Arabian Harlequin-Quail, so I propose to distinguish it as

***Coturnix delegorguei arabica*, subsp. nov.**

Type in the British Museum [♂], Lahej, S. Arabia 11.3.95. Col. Yerbury, Collector. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 95. 5. 13. 21.

♂, bill (from rear of nostril) 10, wing 95–97 (type 98), tail 28, tarsus 25 mm.; ♀, wing 95 mm.

(3 ♂, 1 ♀ examined.)

Attention had already been drawn to the races by Messrs. Sclater and Mackworth-Praed in 'The Ibis,' 1920, p. 841; but in the senior author's review of the races in 'Systema Avium' (1924) only one race was recognized. I presume, therefore, that he did not consider it advisable to recognize more than one form, a course with which I cannot agree.

Mr. N. B. KINNEAR sent the following note:—

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker has kindly drawn my attention that the name for the Mt. Victoria Tree-Creeper, *Certhia familiaris intermedia* Kinnear (Bull. B. O. C. xli. p. 139, 1921), is pre-occupied by *Certhia intermedia* Muller (Nat. Syst. Suppl. p. 98, 1776), and I therefore propose in its place

***Certhia familiaris ripponi*, nom. nov.**

Lord ROTHSCHILD and ERNST HARTERT sent the following note:—

When describing *Manucodia ater altera* * (Nov. Zool. x. p. 84) we only separated the two obvious races, *i. e.*, the much

* This should really have been *M. ater alter*. *Manucodia* is the "Latin" rendering of the native name "Manok deva," meaning the bird of the gods, and there is no reason why that name should be in the feminine gender.